

REMARKS

In the above-identified Office Action the claims were rejected as being obvious in view of a combination of the disclosures of the cited Ueda and Clouthier patents. In response, Applicant stresses that the present invention, as now set forth in the amended claims is patentable over the rejecting references by virtue, for example, of the following requirement of method Claim 1:

“wherein if an image area has said specific type of object,
said rendering command is inputted a plurality of times for said
identifying step, said obtaining step, said correction step, and said
developing step, and

if an image area does not have said specific type of object,
said rendering command is inputted one time for said identifying
step and said developing step.”

This requirement of Claim 1 makes it possible to solve the problem described in the Specification at page 4, lines 5-13 and to perform high speed image processing using the various steps of the claim.

Referring to the cited prior art, the Ueda patent is seen to relate, for example, to an image such as shown in its Fig. 9, which image is divided into a plurality of objects and types of objects. The image processing is performed in accordance with the types of objects. Then, it is noted that the Clouthier patent also discloses identifying types of objects and controlling half-toning. However, neither of the cited references disclose changing an input number of rendering commands in accordance with the type of objects as claimed in the present application.

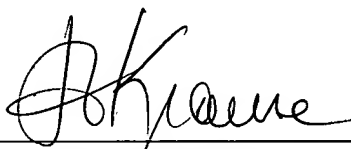
Furthermore, the present invention does not simply perform image processing according to the type of objects. In order to perform the above-mentioned image processing quickly, the characteristic construction of the present invention is provided.

The remaining dependent claims take their patentability from Claim 1, and independent Claims 9 and 11 are patentable for reasons similar to those specified above with respect to Claim 1.

For these various reasons it is believed that all of the remaining claims, as now presented, are allowable and a formal Notice of Allowance is solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our new address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicant

John A. Krause

Registration No. 24,613

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200